





# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE SURVEY



**Center for Health Information and Analysis** 

Conducted by: JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. NORC at the University of Chicago

Summer 2016

If you would prefer to complete this survey on-line, please go to <a href="http://survey.jsi.com/s3/MES">http://survey.jsi.com/s3/MES</a>
enter your 4-digit ID number from the bottom of this page and follow the instructions.







#### Before you begin, some important things for you to know:

Your participation is greatly needed to help the State of Massachusetts understand the experiences and challenges Massachusetts employers, like you, face in making decisions about health insurance.

As a token of our appreciation for your time and assistance, we will email you a copy of the results in the Fall of 2016 (please see Page 15).

Your answers will be kept confidential. The information from this study will not be presented or published in any way that would permit identification of you or your business.

- For all questions on this survey, please provide your best <u>estimate</u> for the number requested.
- Mark one answer for each question by filling in the circle, darkly and completely (like this ●), or by writing your answer to the question in the space provided.
- Arrows (→) will direct you to answer follow-up questions or to skip over certain questions.
- If there is any question that you would prefer not to answer, please skip that question and go on to the next question.

Your participation is voluntary. If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please feel free to contact Thomas Mangione, (617) 482-9485 or MES2016@jsi.com

Please complete and return this completed questionnaire within the next two weeks in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. Attn: Survey Group 44 Farnsworth Street Boston, MA 02210

Or if you would prefer to complete this survey on-line:

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http://survey.jsi.com/s3/MES
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4-digit ID number



### **Section A: Background on Massachusetts Employees**

The number of employees should include both full- and part-time employees but should exclude contract workers and temporary employees.

A <u>contract worker</u> is one hired to perform specific functions in a contractual relationship for a defined period of time. A <u>temporary employee</u> is one employed for a designated period of time.

Throughout this survey, please provide your best estimate for the number requested.

your firm? Your best estimate is acceptable.	any full- and part-time employees are employed by
Total # of employees	in the United States
Total # of employees	in Massachusetts
ļ <u> </u>	<del></del>
3 or More Employees If your firm has more than 3 employees in Massachusetts, please continue with Question A2 below!	O, 1, or 2 Employees  If your firm has less than 3 employees in Massachusetts, you do not need to complete the rest of this survey. Please return this front sheet to JSI in the enclosed postage- paid envelope and we will not send you any reminders about this survey. Thank you for your time and assistance!
	firm's <u>full- and part-time employees</u> (excluding oyees) working in all locations in <u>Massachusetts</u> .  s in Massachusetts work less than 30 hours a
	vorking less than 30 hours/week
A3. Does your firm have any unionized workers	in Massachusetts?
O Yes O No	2
A3a. What number of your firm's Massach Your best estimate is acceptable.	usetts workers are unionized?
# of Unionized en	nployees in MA

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### A4. How many of your firm's Massachusetts employees are in each age group? Your best estimate is acceptable.

a. Under age 26	
b. 26-29	
c. 30-39	
d. 40-49	
e. 50-59	
f. 60 or older	

## A5. Considering the earnings of your firm's <u>full-time</u> employees in Massachusetts (including management but excluding part-time employees) how many earn:

Your best estimate is acceptable.

a.	About \$28,000 or <u>less</u> per year? (This equals about \$13.50 per hour.)			# of Full-time employees
b.	About \$72,000 or <u>more</u> per year? (This equals about \$35 per hour.)			# of Full-time employees

A6. Which of the following benefits does your firm currently offer to <u>full-time</u> employees in Massachusetts? *Mark all that apply.* 

- O Dental insurance
- O Vision plan
- O Life insurance
- O Disability insurance
- O A private retirement or pension plan (including 401k)
- O Paid sick leave
- O Pre-tax flexible spending accounts for uncovered health expenses (Section 125 FSAs)

A7. Does your firm offer health insurance to any employees in Massachusetts?

O Yes —— Continue to the next page, <u>Section B. Firms that Offer Health Insurance</u>

O No Go to Section D. Firms that Do Not Offer Health Insurance on Page 14



#### **Section B: Firms that Offer Health Insurance**

You answered above (A7) that your firm offers health insurance to some or all employees in Massachusetts. Please provide more information about employee and dependent eligibility for coverage, types of coverage offered by the firm, number of employees covered by these plans, and characteristics and costs of the different coverage options.

	Currently, approximately how many employees in N insurance offered by your firm? Please include mana retiree health plan participants in this number. Your bes	gement, but e	xclude any	
	# of Eligible employees			
	Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), employees wheek are considered <u>part-time</u> employees. Are any of Massachusetts <u>eligible</u> for health benefits under this	of your firm's	_	-
	O Yes O No O Don't know O No part-time employees  SKIP to B3			
4	B2a. How many hours per week must a part-time e be eligible for health insurance coverage at y		lassachuse	etts work to
	Hours per week			
	For your firm's Massachusetts employees, which of insurance?	the following	g groups a	re offered health
	modianos.	Yes	No	
	a. Opposite-sex spouses of employees	0		
		0	0	
	b. Same-sex spouses of employees	0	0	
	b. Same-sex spouses of employees	0	0	
	<ul><li>b. Same-sex spouses of employees</li><li>c. Opposite-sex domestic partners of employees</li></ul>	0	0	



	How many of your covered emp Your best estimate is acceptable.	oloyees sign up for ea	ach of th	ne follo	wing ty	pes of coverage?
		# of Employees				
	a. Single coverage		O Not of	fered		
	b. Family coverage		O Not of	fered		
B6.	lf an employee turns down heal employee receive money or oth	_	ge offere	ed by yo	our firm	n, does that
	O Yes O No O Don't know					
	Of those employees enrolled in Massachusetts employees are of Your best estimate is acceptable.		th <u>each c</u> #		elled	<u>er</u> of your
			·	Прюус		
	a. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mas	ssachusetts				O Not offered
	b. Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (	incl. Health Plans Inc.)	)			O Not offered
	c. Tufts Health Plan (incl. Netwo	rk Health)				O Not offered
	d. Fallon Health					O Not offered
	e. Health New England					O Not offered
	f. Neighborhood Health Plan					O Not offered
	g. United Healthcare					O Not offered
	h. Aetna					O Not offered
	i. Cigna					O Not offered
	j. Anthem/Unicare/Wellpoint					O Not offered
	k. Other:					O Not offered
	I. Other:					O Not offered



O Yes	A tiered provider network assigns physicians into benefit tiers based on
O No	a provider's relative cost and, where available, quality. Tiered networks
O Don't know	use cost-sharing (copayment, coinsurance, or deductible) or other incentives to encourage patients to utilize providers in less costly tiers. Tiered networks may also be referred to as "performance based tiering."
B9. Does your firm offer a health pla Massachusetts?	n that includes a <u>limited provider network</u> anywhere in
O Yes	A <u>limited provider network</u> is a selective network of hospitals, health care
O No	professionals and labs that have contracted with a health plan to provide health care services. These networks are smaller than a typical HMO
O Don't know	network.
O Yes O No → SKIP to B11 O Don't know → SKIP to B11  B10a. Do you provide any finan	An <u>ACO</u> is a group of health care providers who give coordinated care, chronic disease management, and seek to improve the quality of care their patients receive. The organization's payment is tied to achieving health care quality goals and outcomes that result in cost savings (e.g., Blue Cross' Alternative Quality Contract)  cial incentives to employees that switch to health plans that
offer ACO-like contracts?	·
O Yes	
O No	
ONO	
O Don't know	
O Don't know	plans in Massachusetts that <u>waive copays</u> for medications chronic diseases?
O Don't know  B11. Does your firm offer any health	chronic diseases?  For example, employers can purchase health plans that waive copays or
O Don't know  B11. Does your firm offer any health and/or treatment adherence for	chronic diseases?



## B12. What types of plans are offered to your firm's employees in Massachusetts (across all carriers and all worksite locations)? For those plans offered, what number of employees are enrolled in each plan type?

Your best estimate is acceptable. Definitions of terms are provided below.

	a. HMC	O Offered # of Employees enrolled O Not offered
		With an <u>HMO</u> , a person must receive their care from an HMO physician; otherwise the expense is not covered. When they use HMO physicians, cost sharing is often very low.
		The covered. When they doe I like physicians, each analing is often very low.
	b. POS	O Offered # of Employees enrolled
		O Not offered
		In a <u>POS plan</u> , employees are reimbursed at a lower rate for services they receive outside the network but they also have a primary care gatekeeper or physician who must approve visits to specialists and hospitals.
	c. PPC	O Offered # of Employees enrolled
		O Not offered
		With a <u>PPO</u> , employees have lower deductibles and co-payments if they use physicians or hospitals in the preferred provider network, but out of network care is also covered. A preferred provider network is the health plan's list of doctors and hospitals that should be used for a member to have the lowest possible cost-sharing.
	d. Inde	nnity O Offered # of Employees enrolled
		O Not offered
		Under <u>conventional or indemnity health insurance</u> , there are no preferred provider networks and a person faces the same cost-sharing regardless of which physician or hospital they choose. The person typically faces a deductible and coinsurance above the deductible. Also referred to as "fee-for-service" plans.
B12		types of plans offered to your firm's employees in Massachusetts, which are self d? Mark all that apply.
	О НМО	
	O POS	
	O PPO	
	O Inden	nity
	O None	of these plans are self funded

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## B13. Do you offer a high deductible health plan (HDHP) with a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) or with a health savings account (HSA)? For those plans offered, what number of employees are enrolled in each plan type?

High deductible health plans (HDHP): Those plans with an annual single deductible of at least \$1,300 and a family

Your best estimate is acceptable. Definitions of terms are provided below.

Health reimbursement arran and the funds are not portal Health savings account (HS Plans. Pre-tax contributions	ble from job to job. Employe SA): Medical savings account can be made by both emp	d providers. funded on a pre-tax basis only by an employer, not the worker, ees use the funds for medical care or services. Ints available to employees enrolled in a High Deductible Health ployees and employers and can be used to pay for qualified t (FSA), unspent funds roll over year to year and job to job.
a. HDHP with HRA	O Offered O Not offered O Don't know	# of Employees enrolled
b. HDHP with HSA	O Offered O Not offered O Don't know	# of Employees enrolled
the carrier with th	e highest enrollment	ealth plan with the highest enrollment within for your firm's Massachusetts employees.  you to determine which plan that is.
B14a. Which is the <u>carrie</u> number of employed Please mark only or	ees enrolled?	B14b. Within the carrier you selected in B14a, which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?
number of employe Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.
number of employe Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh O Harvard Pilgrim He	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts halth Care	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.  O HMO
number of employed Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh O Harvard Pilgrim He (incl. Health Plans	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts halth Care Inc.)	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.  O HMO O POS
number of employed Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh O Harvard Pilgrim He (incl. Health Plans O Tufts Health Plan (	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts halth Care Inc.)	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.  O HMO O POS O PPO
number of employer Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh O Harvard Pilgrim He (incl. Health Plans O Tufts Health Plan ( O Fallon Health	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts alth Care Inc.) incl. Network Health)	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.  O HMO O POS
number of employed Please mark only or O Blue Cross Blue Sh O Harvard Pilgrim He (incl. Health Plans O Tufts Health Plan (	ees enrolled? ne. nield of Massachusetts ealth Care Inc.) incl. Network Health) nd Ith Plan	which type of plan has the largest number of employees enrolled?  Please mark only one.  O HMO O POS O PPO



Please answer questions B15-B18 for the health plan with the highest enrollment within the carrier with the highest enrollment for your firm's Massachusetts employees, as reported in questions B14a-B14b.

For questions B15-B18, your best estimate is acceptable.

B15. For the plan you selected in B14a-B14b, what is the current co-payment dollar amount and/or co-insurance percent for in-network providers for each of the following services?

			Co-payment	Co-	insurance	9
	a. A primary care physician office visit	\$		-or-		%
	b. An outpatient mental health visit	\$		-or-		%
	c. An emergency department visit	\$		-or-		%
	d. An inpatient hospitalization	\$		-or-		%
	e. A generic prescription drug (Tier 1)	\$		-or-		%
	f. A <u>preferred</u> brand prescription drug (Tier 2)	\$		-or-		%
	g. A <u>non-preferred</u> brand prescription drug (Tier 3)	\$		-or-		%
	h. A <u>lifestyle or specialty</u> drug (Tier 4)	\$		-or-		%
B16	. In addition, for the plan you selected in B14a-B14b,	what	is the annual:			
	a. <u>Deductible</u> for single coverage (in-network provider	s)?	\$			
	b. Out-of-pocket limit for single coverage (in-network p	orovid	ers)? \$			
B17	. For the plan you selected in B14a-B14b, what is the a full-time employee for single coverage:	curre	ent <u>total month</u>	ily premi	i <u>um</u> amo	unt for
	a. Total monthly premium charged to your firm for an el	mploy	ee? \$			
	b. Monthly contribution amount paid by your employee?	•	\$			
B18	. For the plan you selected in B14, what is the currer full-time employee for <u>family coverage</u> :	nt <u>tota</u>	ıl monthly pren	<u>nium</u> am	ount for	a
	O Do not offer family coverage					
	a. Total monthly premium charged to your firm for an en	mploy	ee? \$			
	b. Monthly contribution amount paid by your employee?	•	\$			



## Section C: Employer Decision-Making about Health Benefits

Please provide more information about who at your firm makes decisions about health insurance benefits and how these decisions are made.

C1. Which of the following best describes your role at your firm? Mark only one.
O Owner, CEO, or President
O CFO
O Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Director
O Executive responsible for health benefits programs
O Office Manager or Benefits Administrator
O Other, please specify:
C2. Who is involved in making decisions about health benefits at your firm? Mark all that apply.
O Owner, CEO, or President
O CFO
O Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Director
O Executive responsible for health benefits programs
O Office Manager or Benefits Administrator
O Other, please specify:
C3. How does your firm primarily purchase health insurance plans and products? Mark only one.
O Works with carriers directly
O Purchases through a public exchange (e.g. Health Connector, or "Shop" or "Business Express")
O Purchases through a private exchange
O Other, please specify:
O Other, picase specify.
C4. Does your firm use a broker or consultant to help you with your decisions regarding the purchase of health insurance plans or products?
□ O Yes
O No SKIP to C5 on Page 10
C4a. What services does your broker or consultant provide? Mark all that apply.
O Selecting a health plan or plans
O Enrolling employees with the health plan
O Providing customer service with the health plan, such as denied claims
O Helping to administer COBRA (if applicable)
O Determining employee contributions towards premiums
O Other, please specify:



C5. I	Have you considered using private exchanges that also offer choices of plans and carriers,
	and handles much of the administrative hassle of managing and enrolling in health benefits?
	O Yes, we are currently using a private exchange
	O Yes, we are planning to use one in the next few years
	O Yes, we have considered private exchanges, but do not plan to use one
	O No, we have not considered/are not aware of private exchanges
	O Don't know
	<u>Private exchanges</u> are typically set up by consulting firms such as Mercer or Aon Hewitt (as opposed to the Health Connector, which is a public exchange).
	What are the most important factors in your firm's business decision to select a health nsurance carrier or plan? Please mark up to 3.
	O Name brand recognition of carrier or plan
	O Employee preference
	O Referral by broker
	O Referral by business association
	O Provider network
	O Cost of plan
	O Flexibility to create plan options that meet your needs
	O Other, please specify:
	What are the most important reasons that your firm offers health insurance as a benefit to its employees? Please mark up to 3.
	O Helps with employee recruitment
	O Competitors offer it
	O Helps with employee retention
	O Reduces absenteeism by keeping employees healthy
	O Increases productivity by keeping employees healthy
	O Avoid state and federal penalties
	O Other, please specify:
C8. \	Which of the following best describes your firm's contribution to health insurance premiums?
	O Same percentage of premium contribution applied to all health plans
	O Same dollar amount of premium contribution regardless of plan chosen
	O Different percentage of premium contribution for different health plans
	O Other, please specify:



C9. In the past year, has your organization shopped for a new health insurance plan or insurance carrier?
O Yes O No SKIP to C10
C9a. In the past year, did your organization change insurance carriers or decide to offer alternative plans with the existing insurance carrier?
O Yes
O No
C10. In the past year, which of the following strategies has your firm enacted to control the cost of health coverage? Mark all that apply.
O Increased co-pays/deductibles
O Cut firm contribution levels to premiums
O Changed health carriers or plans
O Offered narrow network plan
O Restricted eligibility (e.g., increased number of hours employees must work to be eligible)
O Outsourced work to contractors or temporary workers
O Other, please specify:
O None of the above
C11. From your firm's prior experience, which of the below strategies are most effective in controlling the cost of health coverage? Mark all that apply.
O Increased co-pays/deductibles
O Cut firm contribution levels to premiums
O Changed health carriers or plans
O Offered narrow network plan
O Restricted eligibility (e.g., increased number of hours employees must work to be eligible)
O Outsourced work to contractors or temporary workers
O Other, please specify:
O None of the above



Please answer C12 and C13 if your firm has less than 100 employees in Massachusetts.

If your firm has more than 100 employees in Massachusetts, SKIP to Section E on Page 15.

### C12. Has your firm used or explored using the MA Health Connector to purchase health insurance for its employees?

The <u>Health Connector</u> is a state-established marketplace (or "exchange") designed to make shopping for health insurance more understandable and affordable while providing benefits and tax credits to some businesses and individuals. It is also known as SHOP or Business Express.

_	O Yes, we have considered using the Health Connector, but haven't done so yet
	O Yes, we have used the Health Connector
	O No, we have not considered using the Health Connector SKIP to C13 on Page 13
	O I am not really sure what the Health Connector is
-	C12a. If you considered but did not use the Health Connector, why not? Mark up to 3 reasons.
	O Website malfunctions/technical problems
	O Administratively difficult to use
	O We don't think our employees would value or trust the Health Connector plans
	O The Health Connector offers poor quality plans
	O Don't think we are eligible to participate
	O Broker advised against using the Health Connector
	O We wouldn't save money by using the Health Connector
	O We want health insurance benefits to come directly from the company as a benefit
	O Want to offer defined contribution amount instead of percentage of premiums
	O We are happy with our current plan/carrier
	O Other, please specify:
	O Don't know



### C13. Several new tax credits and rebates are available to employers. Are you aware of the following incentives? Definitions of terms are provided below.

through the Connector.

a. Small Business Tax Credit through the Health Connector

O yes	Small Business Tax Credit through the Health Connector: A small business
O No	health care tax credit is available to eligible small employers that pay at least half of the cost of individual credit when they buy health insurance through the Health Connector, if they: have 25 or fewer full-time employees, pay average annual wages below \$50,000, and pay at least half of the premiums for employee health insurance.
b. Wellness Track	Rebate through the Health Connector
O Yes	Wellness Track Rebate through the Health Connector: Wellness Track is a
O No	free program offered to eligible employers enrolled in a small business group health plan through the Health Connector. Wellness Track's online website provides participating small employers and their employees with a suite of

c. Wellness Tax Credit

O Yes

O No

Wellness Tax Credit: The Massachusetts Wellness Tax Credit Incentive gives small businesses a state tax credit for having an employee wellness program. Massachusetts businesses that employ 200 or fewer workers may qualify for the tax credit for up to 25% of the cost of implementing a certified wellness program for their employees. Employers must meet eligibility requirements in addition to wellness program criteria.

participate may qualify for a Wellness Track rebate of up to 15% on their group's health insurance premium contribution for coverage purchased

Please Go to Section E. Closing on Page 15



### Section D: Firms that Do Not Offer Health Insurance

You answered above (A7) that your firm does <u>not</u> offer health insurance to its employees in Massachusetts. Please provide more information about why your firm does not offer health benefits.

D1.	Has	our/	fir	ո <u>e</u>	<u>ver</u>	offered health insurance to its employees?				
	01	es/								
	10	Ю								
	0 [	O Don't know								
D2.	Did your firm pay a penalty for not offering health insurance to your employees in 2015?									
	01	es/								
	10	Ю								
	0 [	Oon't	kno	wc						
D3.	Wha	t are	th	e m	ost	asons why organizations might not offer employees health insurance. important reasons why your firm does not offer health insurance to its up to $3$ .				
	00	Cost	of i	nsu	rand	e is too high				
	O E	Empl	oye	es	are	covered under another plan, including coverage on a spouse's				
	p	olan,	He	alth	Co	nector, or MassHealth/Medicaid				
	01	O Most employees are part-time or temporary workers								
	O Employees will get a better deal on health insurance exchanges on their own									
	ОТ	he f	irm	car	n att	act good employees without offering health insurance				
	O F	O Firm is not required to offer health insurance due to small size								
	00	Othe	, pl	eas	e d	escribe:				
	0 [	Oon't	kno	wc						
D4.	Are y	ou c	on	sid	erin	g offering health insurance in the next open enrollment period?				
	01	es/								
	10	Vo.								
	0 [	Oon't	kno	wc						
D5.	affor	d to	pa	y fo	r h	offer health insurance, about how much do you think your firm could ealth insurance coverage per month for an employee with single are would be just your firm's share of the premium.				
	\$					per month for an employee with single coverage				



### **Section E: Closing**

#### Thank you for your time and cooperation!

Please provide your contact information so we can email you a report and reach you if we have any clarification questions about your responses.

Company Name:			
Name:			
Title:			
Address:			
Email:			
Phone Number:			

You are now finished with this survey. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. Attn: Survey Group 44 Farnsworth Street Boston, MA 02210

We encourage you to visit our website www.chiamass.gov to see the results of this survey in Fall 2016.

